

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 135 PART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501  
(202) 224-3744  
TTY: (202) 224-4479  
e-mail: chuck\_grassley@grassley.senate.gov
- ☐ 721 FEDERAL BUILDING  
210 WALNUT STREET  
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140  
(515) 284-4890
- ☒ 206 FEDERAL BUILDING  
101 1ST STREET SE.  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-1227  
(319) 363-6832

## United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING  
320 6TH STREET  
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244  
(712) 233-1860
- ☐ 210 WATERLOO BUILDING  
531 COMMERCIAL STREET  
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497  
(319) 232-6657
- ☐ 116 FEDERAL BUILDING  
131 E. 4TH STREET  
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1513  
(563) 322-4331
- ☐ 307 FEDERAL BUILDING  
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204  
(712) 322-7103

January 8, 2003

Colonel William J. Bayles, District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

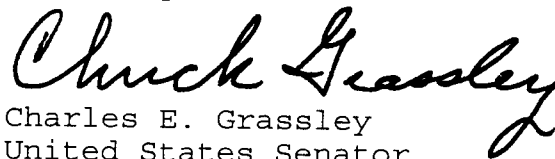
Dear Colonel Bayles:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Dr. and Mrs. David Elliott, North Liberty requesting information regarding the Coralville Lake Master Plan and land use designations. Mrs. Elliot reports Figure 10, page 67 of the electronically reproduced plan is degraded and not interpretable. She states she is concerned the Corps is misrepresenting the Plan. She reports the bound version of the 1977 Master Plan does not show the Camp Daybreak Area designated for intensive recreational use.

I would appreciate any information you could send me regarding this matter. Please direct your response to my Cedar Rapids office.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

  
Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

CEG/mlld

RANKING,  
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:

BUDGET  
JUDICIARY

Co-CHAIRMAN,  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS  
CONTROL CAUCUS

January 5, 2003

Dr. and Mrs. David E. Elliott  
3480 Cumberland Ridge Road  
North Liberty, Iowa ~~52246~~ 52317  
(319) 665-6099

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
206 Federal Building  
101 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
52401-1227

Dear Senator Grassley,

This letter is in response to your letter dated December 24, 2002. We are very concerned with Colonel William J. Bayles's reply to your office dated December 20, 2002. We are keeping your office informed of our concerns with the Corps of Engineers and the proposed Muslim conference center and youth camp at Coralville Lake. We rely on your office to ensure that the Corps is responding accurately and with integrity. **We believe the Corps is actively misrepresenting its own Master Plan and land use designations.**

The Corps represents the lease site as "recreation – intensive". We have thoroughly examined the Corps 1977 Master Plan. The site is NOT designated as recreation-intensive use. Below is a detailed description of the 1977 Master Plan designations for the site.

Figure 10 on page 67 of the original bound 1977 Master Plan Volume 1 is a reduced version of the map shown on page 2 of Volume 2 of the 1977 Master Plan. The map on page 2 of Volume 2 shows the leased area of the Girl Scout camp as hatched and the key to the map defines the hatched pattern as "leased lands (existing use)". Although Figure 10 on page 67 shows the same hatch pattern, the key does not include the designation "leased lands (existing use)". Instead, the meaning of the hatch pattern is not defined in Figure 10, page 67 of Volume 1. However, the pattern for "recreation – intensive use" is defined as solid black in Figure 10, page 67. The area leased to the Jolly Roger campground is black and is designated "recreation – intensive use". The site leased to the Girl Scouts (Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts) has a hatch pattern. Therefore, Figure 10, page 67 of the original bound 1977 Master Plan Volume 1 clearly distinguishes between the site leased to the Girl Scouts and those sites that are "recreation – intensive use." The site leased to the Girl Scouts clearly is not "recreation – intensive use."

The key on page 2 of Volume 2 defines the hatch pattern as "leased lands (existing use)". The use of the site is described in the 1977 Master Plan. The site is shown in plate C-2 of the Appendix to the Master Plan and is enumerated as E-412, E-409, E-411, and E-408. All are leased land (VI). Page 4 of the appendix designates the use.

"Tracts #E-401, 406, 408, 409, 411, 412, 414, B-114

Natural selection will follow here."

Note that the "wildlife practices" for the "recreation – intensive use" sites are much different than the "natural selection" use dictated for tracts E-408, 409, 411, and 412.

The Natural Resource Inventory Survey (NRIS) of 1990 also defines the non-intensive "existing use" of the site. The NRIS was developed at the time the site was in use by the Girl Scouts. The NRIS was reiterated in an April 1995 document. The NRIS enumerates the site as segments 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15. Segments 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are low density recreation. Segments 12 and 15 are reserve forest. Low density recreation permits primitive camping. The Girl Scout camp use was consistent with the 1977 Master Plan designation and the NRIS "existing use" listing for the site. The location (segment 15)

for the proposed two story 17,500 square foot lodge is listed as reserve forestland by the NRIS. The 1977 Master Plan "existing use" designation does not permit building a large conference center on this site.

Furthermore, the shoreline of the site leased to the Girl Scouts is designated in Exhibit 4 of Appendix F (Lakeshore Management Plan) to the 1977 Master Plan as "Protected Lakeshore". Protected lakeshore is defined in Appendix F of the Master Plan as "Protected Lakeshore – No private or public development. Environmental area." The sites designated as "recreation – intensive use" in the 1977 Master Plan do not have protected lakeshores. This provides more support that the site is not designated intensive use. The fact that the site is designated protected lakeshore prevents development of the beach as proposed by MYCA.

Colonel William Bayles's reply to your letter is disturbing. He claims that the site is designated "Recreation – Intensive" without documentation except for referring to the woefully inaccurate Figure 4-3 of the EA. He does not and cannot document this designation using the 1977 Master Plan. It is possible that Col. Bayles will refer to Figure 10, page 67 of the electronically reproduced version of Volume 1 from the Master Plan present on their web site. The electronically reproduced version of Figure 10 is degraded and is not interpretable. The original is clear.

We are communicating to your office our concern that the Corps is actively misrepresenting the land use designations of the 1977 Master Plan. We would like to meet with you or your aide to review the actual 1977 Master Plan. The EA and draft finding of no significant impact is based on the "recreation – intensive" use designation. We have provided the Corps with this detailed description of their own documents in our responses to the EA. Col. Bayles stated in his reply to you that "Publishing the EA was delayed due to the additional time needed to gather pertinent information and to ensure that the final document was as complete and of the highest quality as possible." Please ask Col. Bayles if he has even read the bound version of the 1977 Master Plan. We ask your office to investigate this apparent misrepresentation and ensure that the Corps is responding accurately and with integrity.

We also note that MYCA continues to misrepresent the camp as the first camp for Muslim youth in North America. Other permanent Muslim camps have been operating for years on private land. Indeed, there is a 1600-acre Muslim youth camp and conference center in Abiquiu, northern New Mexico run by Dar al Islam. Another permanent youth camp run by ALIMY is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains (Bedford, Virginia). MYCA is an organization in name only and has no experience in running youth camps. It must be discouraging to these other camps to read MYCA's press releases.

Many residents of Johnson County have responded to the EA. Some have sent you copies of their responses. Due to the misrepresentations by MYCA and the Corps, and because of the number of inaccuracies in the EA as prepared by Zambrana, we understandably lack confidence in the process.

Sincerely,



David E. Elliott, M.D., Ph.D.  
Mrs. Andrea L. Elliott





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

January 22, 2003

Planning, Programs, and  
Project Management Division

Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator  
206 Federal Building  
101 -1st Street SE.  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1227

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing in response to your letter of January 8, 2003, with the accompanying letter from Dr. and Mrs. David Elliott. The letter concerned the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed lease at Coralville Lake and previous correspondence between our offices.

The concerns raised by Dr. and Mrs. Elliott have also been submitted to the Corps of Engineers as part of the Elliott's public comment letters. Dr. and Mrs. Elliott are correct in stating that the proposed lease site is not labeled Recreation/Intensive Use in the map set, Volume II of the 1977 Master Plan for Coralville Lake, but instead the area is labeled "leased lands" for the northern portion of the site and "reserve forest" for the southern portion of the site.

Page 29 of Volume I of the 1977 Master Plan describes all of the leased lands to non-Federal agencies or groups at Coralville Lake for various forms of public use. This list includes the Cardinal Council of Girl Scouts lease of the Camp Daybreak site. All of these organizations and their associated development are considered non-Federal recreation development. Another term used by the Corps of Engineers for this type of development is "quasi-public" development, to differentiate it from Federal or commercial development.

Page 65 of the Master Plan states "Recreation/Intensive Use lands are those allocated for developments as public use areas for intensive recreation activities, including areas for concession and quasi-public development." Thus, the terms "leased lands" and "quasi-public" are synonymous and, as noted on page 65, are classified as Recreation/Intensive Use. Therefore, the area is correctly identified as Recreation/Intensive Use for the northern portion of the site where the proposed development would occur.

The Natural Resource Inventory System (NRIS), now obsolete, was an internal resource tool, which used different measuring systems than the Master Plan. All planning documents at Corps of Engineers projects are guided by the project's Master Plan. If there is any perceived conflict in land use designations, the Master Plan land use designations predominate.

The shoreline adjacent to the proposed lease area is labeled "protected lakeshore" in the Lakeshore Management Plan, Appendix F of the Master Plan. The purpose of the Lakeshore Management Plan is to provide guidance on limiting private exclusive use of the shoreline. Our policy requires a balance of resource protection and the promotion of safe, healthy use of the shoreline for recreation by the public. The proposed beach construction, by adding sand to an existing sandy shoreline and placement of a summer canoe dock, which will be removed during the non-camping season, was evaluated in the Environmental Assessment. No significant environmental impacts were identified from these actions. Therefore, the integrity of the shoreline would not be compromised, and these actions are within the allowable parameters of the Lakeshore Management Plan and the proposed nonprofit lease.

The Rock Island District is very aware of the concerns raised by this proposed project and is working diligently to ensure public and environmental concerns will be addressed to the fullest extent possible.

I hope that this information satisfactorily addresses the concerns expressed in the letter you have received. If you have further questions regarding this matter, your staff may call Ms. Karen Hagerty in our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/794-5286.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Torkild P. Brunso  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
Deputy District Engineer

Copy Furnished:

Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1501